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The Status of *Scrobicularia viridotincta* CARPENTER

(Mollusca: Bivalvia)

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(Plate 27, Figures 2, 2 a)

IN 1856, P. P. CARPENTER described a new species of bivalved mollusk as '*Scrobicularia virido-tincta*.' The type specimen was collected by Mr. T. Bridges in the Bay of Panama and was later deposited in the collection of Mr. Hugh Cuming. Presently the holotype is in the type collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

Notwithstanding the incomplete description and the lack, until recently (see PALMER, 1963), of an illustration of the holotype, there have been virtually no questions concerning the identity of *Scrobicularia viridotincta*. DALL (1900) created a new section, *Scrobiculina*, of the subgenus *Arcopagia* with *Scrobicularia viridotincta* CARPENTER as type, and nearly all modern authors have followed this scheme in systematic treatments of the TELLINIDAE. DALL considered that *Tellina* (*Peronaoderma*) *ochracea* CARPENTER, 1864 also belonged to the section *Scrobiculina* and, further, that the species *T. ochracea* and *S. viridotincta* were distinguished from each other by the umbo, the former species being ochraceous or somewhat yellow-orange while the latter was greenish. However, an examination of the type of *Scrobicularia viridotincta* CARPENTER shows this species to possess macomid characteristics, and the following figures, description and remarks attempt to clarify the definition of *S. viridotincta* CARPENTER and *Scrobiculina* DALL.

DESCRIPTION OF

Scrobicularia viridotincta CARPENTER

Original description: ?*S. testa*. ?*S. productae simili; sed latiore, ovali tenuiore, magis planata, antice haud producta, alba; umbonibus viriditinctis.*

Redescription of holotype (Plate 27, figures 2, 2 a): Shell 51.8 mm in length and 35.1 mm in height; diameter, 16.0 mm; distance from anterior margin to umbonal axis, 28.5 mm, distance from anterior margin to anteriormost extension of the pallial sinus, 12.8 mm. Shell white and ovate, slightly inequivalve with the right valve larger and of greater convexity, slightly inequilateral and with a slight posterior flexure to the right, inflated anteriorly and somewhat compressed posteriorly. Umbones just behind the middle, blunt, with conspicuous dark grey-green coloration, slightly elevated and somewhat inflated, with a deep umbonal cavity beneath. Anterior margin rather broadly and smoothly rounded; ventral margin slightly arcuate and convex; posterior margin but slightly produced, rather narrowly rounded. Sculpture consisting of closely spaced weak concentric lirae; no true radial sculpture evident. Right valve with a posterior ridge, left valve with a corresponding furrow. Ligament light brown in color, sunken and subtended by a strong calcareous clement or resilium, shorter than the ligament



Figure 1

Figure 1 a

Figure 1, 1a: The holotype of *Tellina subtrigona* SOWERBY, 1866 (about x 2.3).

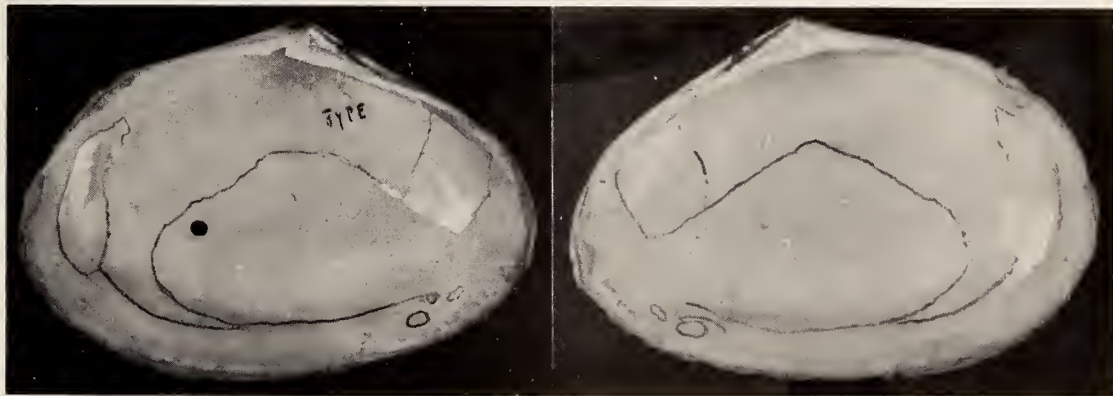


Figure 2

Figure 2 a

Figures 2 and 2 a: The holotype of *Scrobicularia viridotincta* CARPENTER in the type collection of the British Museum (Natural History); Reg. No. 19621115. Figure 2: Right valve internal; Figure 2 a: Left valve internal (both about x 1.4).

